

result

- 1 It was freezing cold, **so** I wore a thick coat.
- 2 It snowed hard all night. **As a result** the airport was closed the following morning.
We regret that you do not have the necessary qualifications, and **therefore** / **consequently** we are unable to offer you the job.

- 1 **So** is the most common way of introducing a clause of result.
- 2 **As a result**, **therefore**, and **consequently** (more formal than **so**) are often used at the beginning of a sentence or clause.
- When the marker is at the beginning of a clause, it is usually preceded by a comma, or comma + **and**.
- **Therefore** and **consequently** can also be used before a main verb, e.g. *We have therefore / consequently decided not to offer you the job.*

reason

- 1 I have stopped writing to her, **because** / **as** / **since** she never answers me.
- 2 The plane was late **because of** the fog.
Flight 341 has been delayed **due to** / **owing to** adverse weather conditions.

- 1 **Because**, **as**, and **since** (more formal) are used to introduce clauses giving a reason and are synonyms. **As** is often used at the beginning of a sentence, e.g. *As the weather is so awful, we've decided not to go out.*
- 2 **Because of**, **due to**, and **owing to** also express the reason for something. They are usually followed by a noun.
- **Due to** and **owing to** are more formal than **because of**.

purpose

- 1 I did a language course **to** / **in order to** / **so as to** improve my English.
- 2 She closed the door quietly **so as not to** / **in order not to** wake the baby.
- 3 They moved to London **so (that)** they could see their grandchildren more often.
- 4 I'm not going to tell Ann **in case** she tells everyone else.

- 1 **To**, **in order to** and **so as to** introduce a clause of purpose and are all followed by an infinitive. **So as to** and **in order to** are more formal.
- 2 For negative purpose use **in order not to** or **so as not to**, NOT *She closed the door quietly not to wake the baby.*
- 3 You can also use **so (that)** + **can** / **could** + verb or **will** / **would** + verb to express purpose. You can leave out **that** in informal speech and writing.
- You must use **so (that)** when there is a change of subject in the result clause, e.g. *She put a rug over the baby so (that) he wouldn't be cold.*
- 4 Use **in case** + clause when we do something in order to be ready for future situations / problems or to avoid them.

contrast

- 1 We enjoyed the concert, **but** we didn't have very good seats.
Agnes was attracted to the stranger, **yet** something in her head was telling her not to get close to him.
We enjoyed the concert. **However**, we didn't have very good seats.
Agnes was attracted to the stranger. **Nevertheless**, something in her head was telling her not to get close to him.
- 2 We enjoyed the concert **although** / **even though** / **though** we didn't have very good seats.
- 3 **In spite of** being attracted to the stranger, something in Agnes's head was telling her not to get close to him.
Despite her attraction to the stranger...
Despite the fact that she was attracted to the stranger...

- 1 **But** is the most common and informal way of introducing contrast, and is normally used to link two contrasting points within a sentence.
Yet is used in the same way, but is more formal / literary.
However and **nevertheless** are normally used at the beginning of a sentence, to connect it to the previous one. They are usually followed by a comma.
- **Nevertheless** (or **nonetheless**) is more formal / literary than **however**.
- 2 **Even though** is more emphatic than **although**. **Though** is more common in informal speech.

⚠ **Though** can also be used at the end of a phrase as a comment adverb, e.g. *He's very friendly – a bit mean, though.*

- 3 After **in spite of** and **despite** you must use a gerund, a noun, or **the fact that** + clause.

- a Circle the right connector in each sentence.

Even though / **Despite** she's working really hard, I don't think she'll be able to catch up with the rest of the class.

- 1 We can't afford to have a holiday this year **as** / **so** we've got an overdraft at the bank.
- 2 Could we rearrange my timetable **so that** / **in case** I don't have so many classes on a Friday afternoon?
- 3 At the meeting Carla stuck to her guns **due to** / **in spite of** the fact that everybody was against her.
- 4 The restaurant chain has had a very difficult year. **Nevertheless** / **As a result**, they haven't had to close any of their restaurants.
- 5 He gets a good salary **though** / **since** the job itself is quite monotonous.

- b Circle the correct option according to register.

Sales have decreased over the last three months. **So** / **Therefore** we will not be taking on any new staff.

- 1 I've been off work for the last three days **because of** / **owing to** this nasty cough I've got.
- 2 Jane texted me to say she's going to be a bit late **so** / **consequently** let's start without her.
- 3 The company has reported declining sales this year. **Nevertheless** / **But** they have so far managed to avoid any staff cuts.
- 4 I stopped at a service station **to** / **in order to** fill up with petrol.
- 5 I thought it was an amazing film. It was quite depressing, **though** / **however**.
- 6 We sincerely apologize for the delay, which was **due to** / **because of** the late arrival of the incoming aircraft.

- c Combine the two sentences using the **bold** word(s), making any necessary changes.

We always switch off the TV at night. We don't want to waste electricity. **so as**

We always switch off the TV at night so as not to waste electricity.

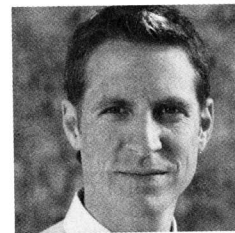
- 1 Our seats were a long way from the stage. We enjoyed the play. **In spite**
- 2 We took ages to get there. The traffic was heavy. **because of**
- 3 I took the price off the bag. I didn't want her to know how much it had cost. **so that**
- 4 Keep the receipt for the sweater. Your dad might not like it. **in case**
- 5 Susanna is an only child. She isn't at all spoilt. **Even though**
- 6 Prices have increased because production costs have risen. **due to**

Consolidation

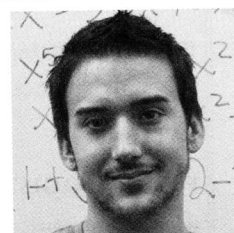
Complete the texts with the discourse markers from the list.

so as a result consequently as because of so as to so as not to
so that (x2) in case but however although though despite

I would say that the most challenging period in my career so far was my first junior management position in the company where I still work today. I had always wanted to be an account manager, ¹ so I was thrilled when I got the job, but little did I know what was waiting for me on my first day. The office environment wasn't exactly organized, and to make matters worse, my boss was completely unsupportive towards me. For some reason, he just refused to take any responsibility for dealing with the clients, and I was ² _____ forced to deal with all the problems by myself, which wasn't easy. I used to stay late in the office almost every night ³ _____ miss any of the clients' deadlines. It seems ridiculous now, but I was so stressed that I used to check my emails every couple of hours, even at weekends, ⁴ _____ there was an urgent message asking me to sort something out. It was worth it in the end ⁵ _____, because eventually my boss was sacked and I was promoted in his place!



The toughest time I've ever had was definitely my first term here at university. ⁶ _____ I really love student life now, it wasn't so easy at the beginning. My bad luck started on the very first day. My parents had just dropped me off with all my stuff when some of the guys whose rooms were on the same corridor as mine suggested going to play basketball in the park nearby. I don't know exactly how it happened, ⁷ _____ somehow, during the game, I tripped and fell very hard on my right arm and broke it. Apart from not being able to do any sports for weeks, it was especially annoying because my injury meant I wasn't able to write properly. ⁸ _____, I got really behind with my essays and I had to take extra classes later in the year ⁹ _____ I could catch up. On top of that, it wasn't as easy as I had expected to find friends, and I was pretty homesick for quite a while. ¹⁰ _____, things got better eventually. Once my arm was better, I managed to get into the first basketball team and made loads of new friends. I can look back now and laugh, but at the time things didn't seem so funny.



Most people can't wait until the day they give up working, but I can tell you it's not quite as simple as you might think. ¹¹ _____ all the free time, retirement isn't just a question of enjoying yourself and feeling delighted that you never have to work again. My husband Frank had terrible trouble adjusting to the new lifestyle when he retired after forty rewarding years as a lawyer. ¹² _____ he had always been committed to his career, it wasn't easy just to give it up overnight. We decided to move to the countryside ¹³ _____ be nearer to our daughter and her family, but when we arrived, we found that they were all so busy with their own lives that they didn't have much time for us. Of course, we did babysit for her sometimes ¹⁴ _____ she could go out in the evenings, but somehow it wasn't the life we had imagined. Just when we were feeling really down, a friend of ours invited us along to a ballroom dancing class in the village. Frank wasn't keen at first, as dancing isn't really his thing, but once we got there, we had a wonderful time. Now we go three times a week and it's changed our lives. We keep fit and we've met so many fantastic people. And it's all ¹⁵ _____ the dance club. I don't know what we would have done without it!



Write your own paragraph about a challenging experience you have faced. You could write about your work, studies, or family. Explain what the challenge was, and how you survived it. If you can't think of anything from your life, write about a friend or relative.

In your paragraph, make sure you use at least five of the discourse markers from the list. When you have finished, swap paragraphs with a partner, and check the discourse markers. Has your partner used them correctly?

Activation